

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of managing handoff of media service sessions among service providers in a network, said method comprising:
 - receiving information associated with said media service sessions at a service manager;
 - using said information at said service manager to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of said media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider; and
 - if it is determined to initiate said handoff, initiating said handoff.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said information includes information received from said service providers and information associated with location and priority of service modules that are involved in any one of said media service sessions.
3. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said information includes information received from any client device that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.
4. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said information includes information associated with network conditions.
5. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said information includes information associated with any content provider that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

6. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said information includes information associated with a content delivery network that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

7. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made before a need for said handoff is absolutely necessary.

8. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made based on a pattern associated with said information.

9. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said media service sessions include a streaming technique.

10. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for implementing a method of managing handoff of media service sessions among service providers in a network, said method comprising:

receiving information associated with said media service sessions at a service manager;

using said information at said service manager to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of said media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider; and

if it is determined to initiate said handoff, initiating said handoff.

11. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10 wherein said information includes information received from said service providers and information associated with location and priority of service modules that are involved in any one of said media service sessions.

12. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10 wherein said information includes information received from any client device that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

13. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10 wherein said information includes information associated with network conditions.

14. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10 wherein said information includes information associated with any content provider that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

15. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10 wherein said information includes information associated with a content delivery network that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

16. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made before a need for said handoff is absolutely necessary.

17. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made based on a pattern associated with said information.

18. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10 wherein said media service sessions include a streaming technique.

19. A network system comprising:
a plurality of content providers;

a plurality of service providers;

a plurality of client devices, wherein one of said content providers, one of said service providers, and one of said client devices form one of a plurality of media service sessions; and

a service manager for managing handoff of media service sessions among said service providers based on information received, and wherein said service manager uses said information to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of said media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider.

20. The network system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said information includes information received from said service providers.

21. The network system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said information includes information received from any client device that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

22. The network system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said information includes information associated with network conditions.

23. The network system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said information includes information associated with any content provider that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

24. The network system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said information includes information associated with location and priority of service modules that are involved in any one of said media service sessions.

25. The network system as recited in Claim 19 further comprising a content delivery network including said plurality of content providers, wherein said

information includes information associated with said content delivery network that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

26. The network system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made before a need for said handoff is absolutely necessary.

27. The network system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made based on a pattern associated with said information.

28. The network system as recited in Claim 19 wherein said media service sessions include a streaming technique.

29. An apparatus for managing handoff of media service sessions among service providers comprising:
an information receiving module for receiving information;
a handoff determination module for using said information to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of said media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider.

30. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29 wherein said information includes information received from said service providers and information associated with location and priority of service modules that are involved in any one of said media service sessions.

31. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29 wherein said information includes information received from any client device that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

32. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29 wherein said information includes information associated with network conditions.

33. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29 wherein said information includes information associated with any content provider that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

34. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29 wherein said information includes information associated with a content delivery network that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

35. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made before a need for said handoff is absolutely necessary.

36. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made based on a pattern associated with said information.

37. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29 wherein said media service sessions include a streaming technique.

38. A method of managing handoff of media service sessions among service providers in a network, said method comprising:

receiving information associated with said media service sessions at a service manager, wherein said media service sessions include a streaming technique.

using said information at said service manager to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of said media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider; and

if it is determined to initiate said handoff, initiating said handoff.

39. The method as recited in Claim 38 wherein said information includes information received from said service providers, information received from any client device that is involved in any one of said media service sessions, information associated with network conditions, and information associated with any content provider that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

40. The method as recited in Claim 38 wherein said information includes information associated with a content delivery network that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

41. The method as recited in Claim 38 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made before a need for said handoff is absolutely necessary, and wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made based on a pattern associated with said information.

42. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for implementing a method of managing handoff of media service sessions among service providers in a network, said method comprising:

receiving information associated with said media service sessions at a service manager, wherein said media service sessions include a streaming technique;

using said information at said service manager to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of said media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider; and

if it is determined to initiate said handoff, initiating said handoff.

43. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 42 wherein said information includes information received from said service providers, information associated with location and priority of service modules that are involved in any one of said media service sessions, information received from any client device that is involved in any one of said media service sessions, information associated with network conditions, and information associated with any content provider that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

44. A network system comprising:

a plurality of content providers;

a plurality of service providers;

a plurality of client devices, wherein one of said content providers, one of said service providers, and one of said client devices form one of a plurality of media service sessions, wherein said media service sessions include a streaming technique; and

a service manager for managing handoff of media service sessions among said service providers based on information received, and wherein said service manager uses said information to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of said media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider.

45. The network system as recited in Claim 44 wherein said information includes information received from said service providers, information associated with location and priority of service modules that are involved in any one of said media service sessions, information received from any client device that is

involved in any one of said media service sessions, information associated with network conditions, and information associated with any content provider that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

46. The network system as recited in Claim 44 further comprising a content delivery network including said plurality of content providers, wherein said information includes information associated with said content delivery network that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

47. The network system as recited in Claim 44 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made before a need for said handoff is absolutely necessary, and wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made based on a pattern associated with said information.

48. An apparatus for managing handoff of media service sessions among service providers comprising:

an information receiving module for receiving information;

a handoff determination module for using said information to determine whether to initiate a handoff of any of said media service sessions from a service provider to another service provider, wherein said media service sessions include a streaming technique.

49. The apparatus as recited in Claim 48 wherein said information includes information received from said service providers, information associated with location and priority of service modules that are involved in any one of said media service sessions, information received from any client device that is involved in any one of said media service sessions, information associated with network conditions, and information associated with any content provider that is involved in any one of said media service sessions.

50. The apparatus as recited in Claim 48 wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made before a need for said handoff is absolutely necessary, and wherein said determination to initiate said handoff is made based on a pattern associated with said information.